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CORRESPONDENT HASKIN'S
IMPRESSIONS OF HAWAII

Aftermath of the Boom--Sugar Mad--Hotels for
Sale--Tourist's Paradise--The Volcano.
Spell of the Tropics.

HONOLULU--The Hawaiian Islands are just getting over a bad case of black eye. After annexation they had a real western boom out here. They tried, in true city-made-while-you-wait style, to make a Chicago out of Honolulu, and, as is usual in such cases, strained themselves in the attempt. It is the same old story of riding the wave too high, with the usual long wait for the sails to fill. Many of the disconsolate ones are still waiting and waiting for wind, but the plucky ones have got out their oars and are using their muscle.

It seems a pity that people will never learn the way of the boom and the lesson of the bursted bubble. It is too bad that the fair face of development should so frequently be disfigured by the ugly scars that result from these disruptions of over-confidence. There is really nothing unusual about the situation here. It is easily diagnosed as a commercial convulsion of the regulation order. Our western towns have had them, one after the other, just like children take the measles or the whooping cough.

SUGAR THE PATRON SAINT.

It seems that the root of all the evil has been too much sugar. The sweet staple is to Hawaii what coal is to Pennsylvania or lumber is to Washington. After annexation, prices were good and the Islanders went sugar mad. Inside of eighteen months they raised \$40,000,000 for plantation investment--\$40,000,000 from a community where there is less than 8,000 white people. Where is the town in the United States, or in the world for that matter, that can equal such a record? Men, women and children took stock to the limit of their means and credit. The game was played by all hands to a stand-still. Sugar was the patron saint of the whole population. Then prices fell and Honolulu went into mourning.

If there is anything which is morally certain, it is that the price of sugar will fluctuate. Its rise and fall is as sure as the coming of the wet and dry seasons, but for all this the speculators went at it blind, and the limb broke under hundreds of them. Six of the big companies failed and their stock went by the board with a crash. The rest have weathered the storm and the tardy advance in prices is bringing them slowly back to the dividend paying basis. Although Honolulu has been hard hit I do not know of another place in the world that, under similar circumstances would have met the decline so bravely, or got off so easily.

HOTELS AT SHERIFF'S SALE.

In addition to the low price of sugar several other things have concurred to make the situation worse. The tourist trade was just arriving at good proportions when the plague broke out, and the easy-going, free-spending American rover checked his baggage through and took his coveted dollars elsewhere. For a time the through liners to the Orient would not even send a small boat ashore in Honolulu. This, of course, deprived the place of much revenue. The beautiful Moana Hotel, where Mrs. Sanford died recently, was opened in the face of all this, and it had to run with empty rooms so long that it is now in the hands of a receiver. The rare old Royal Hawaiian Hotel, which was so prosperous in the days of the monarchy, has just been sold at sheriff's sale for the same reason. The Alexander Young Hotel, which is doubtless the most remarkable structure ever built in an out-of-the-way locality like this, is having a lively tussle with the inevitable.

Mr. Alexander Young is one of the island's richest sugar planters. At a cost of over a million dollars he has constructed in the heart of Honolulu a modern, six-story, fire-proof hotel. Between the two six-story ends of this splendid building is a roof-garden capable of seating 2,500 people. The floor space of this garden is one-third of an acre in extent. It has banquet halls, ball rooms, and all the furnishings and equipment of our most modern American establishments. He even has his own farm in the suburbs to provide provisions for the hotel. This enterprise is certainly a monument to Mr. Young's faith in the future of his island home, but in all likelihood he will have to wait a long time before he realizes upon his unusual investment.

IDEAL RESORT FOR TOURISTS.

In this connection it is only fair to say that the Hawaiian Islands are an ideal resort for tourists. If the hotels do not prosper eventually it won't be because they are not deserving. An outbreak of the plague which occurred years ago should not scare the wits out of the people for a generation. Havana was a pest-hole of yellow fever for centuries, but people can go there now with perfect safety. And Hawaii is safer than Cuba, Jamaica, or any of the West Indian Islands. The steamers running to it are as large as those in any tourist service in the world. The hotel accommodations are certainly not surpassed anywhere.

There are no fogs or hurricanes or malaria. The forests have no wild beasts and there are no snakes or poisonous insects in the jungles. There is a real live volcano with a sort of

natural safety valve arrangement so that it can't blow up. All the earmarks of the old monarchy remain, such as the homes of the kings, the hula-hula dancing girls, and the picturesque flower maidens who put garlands of posies around the neck of the stranger. That the climate is delightful may be known by the mere statement that sea bathing is comfortable one day after another, and that one may have strawberries for breakfast the entire year round.

This is said purely from an appreciation of the situation. It is not written for the purpose of making a



FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

ten as a return for passes or any sort of favors. Too many newspaper correspondents travel around in a complimentary capacity and work their way by exploiting the interests of those who entertain them. I pay my way and say whatever I like, aiming always to tell the truth and do the square thing. I am glad of an opportunity to say this so that my readers may know my policy in this respect. The Hawaiian Islands are a part of the American Union and it pleases me to say a good word in their behalf, especially when they are so deserving of it.

"WE ARE CIVILIZED."

Hawaii is not generally appreciated in other respects. Few visitors are prepared to find such an advanced civilization. It is a great mistake to suppose that we have here merely a lot of naked kanakas, the remnant of a monarchy, a volcano, and a few sugar plantations. Honolulu has a gentleman's club which has had its doors open for more than fifty years; it has a college which recently held its sixtieth anniversary; in its public schools there are more than six hundred teachers, and the foundation of the system dates back to 1841. It is a fact not generally known that in the early days of the Pacific Coast, children were sent from California to Honolulu to be educated.

This is quite in contrast to the situation in Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines at the beginning of Yankee rule. There, the public school was unknown until we introduced it, and we took over a population the bulk of which was as dirty as it was ignorant. American influence predominated in the Hawaiian group for so many years that it was in reality a ready-made colony when the time came to annex it. The fine residences, modern street buildings, splendid roads, and clean, well-mannered people will prove a revelation to all who visit the Islands for the first time.

STATISTICS WORTH KNOWING.

Some vital statistics may not be out of place here. The distance between San Francisco and Honolulu is 2089 miles. From Honolulu to Yokohama it is 3445 miles, from Manila to Honolulu it is 4700 miles. The total area of the seven principal islands of the Hawaiian group is 6449 miles, and their total population is 154,000. The names of the Islands given in the order of their size, are, Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau. Honolulu has about 40,000 inhabitants. It is located on the Island of Oahu.

The returns of the last census show that of the entire population 63,221 were native born and 90,780 foreign born. There were 54,141 Hawaiians, a third of whom were of mixed blood; 12,749 white people; 25,767 Chinese; 61,111 Japanese; and 233 negroes. It is estimated that since the census the arrivals and departures of Japanese have about balanced, and that the number of Chinese has decreased on account of the federal exclusion law. Several thousands of Porto Ricans have arrived in the meantime, and the number of Americans has increased somewhat. The number of white people in Honolulu is large as shown by comparison with those residing in the City of Mexico. The last named has a population of over 300,000, in-

cluding 3000 Americans, while Honolulu with its 40,000 residents claims 8000 whites.

SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE MIXED.

An examination of the school report of our Island territory discloses some interesting figures. Schools taught in Hawaiian have long been abolished, all instruction now being in the English language. The nationalities of all pupils in the schools are as follows: Hawaiian, 4903; Part Hawaiian, 2869; American, 812; British, 240; German, 337; Portuguese, 4124; Scandinavian, 98; Japanese, 1993; Chinese, 1395; Porto Ricans, 596; other foreigners, 151. Total, 17,518.

The main dependence of the Hawaiian Islands is sugar. Nearly all of the existing wealth came from this source, and it is about the only hope of the immediate future. Out of the total value of export shipments for the

last fiscal year, amounting to \$26,228,204, the item of sugar alone was \$25,310,725. Thus it will be seen that there was less than \$1,000,000 worth of all other domestic merchandise exported to the United States and foreign countries. There are about 120,000 acres planted in sugar on the Islands today. There are seventy-one plantations in all which are scattered over the four islands of Hawaii, Maui, Oahu and Kauai. These plantations produced last year 437,991 tons of raw sugar as against 166,432 tons ten years ago--a gain of 271,559 tons since the fall of the monarchy.

HAWAIIAN CANE IS RICH.

It is said that the cane grown in Hawaii is much richer than the product of Cuba and the United States. It takes about ten tons of Cuban cane to produce a ton of sugar while eight tons of the Hawaiian stalks will easily yield that amount. If the price remains fair it is expected that the total yield of these Islands will eventually reach 600,000 tons annually. Hon. Carol D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor, in a report on Hawaii, declared that it ought to afford homes for a half a million people. However, if sugar remains the one staple the Island will have no great stability but will suffer numerous ups and downs according to the variations of the market.

What is needed is a diversification of crops. Successful experiments have been made with the Yucatan Fibre plant, a variety of cactus called sisal, which can be grown on semi-arid land. This fibre is used in making rope and binder twine, as well as several kinds of brushes. Over 100,000 pounds of this fibre has already been produced in a year. It sold in San Francisco for about eight cents per pound, netting the growers about \$75.00 per acre.

THE SPELL OF THE TROPICS.

The people of Hawaii have their problems to solve, but they will doubtless be able to work them out. It is a place where a home is worth striving for. He who sojourns here a while is ever loth to leave. The fair skies and bright flowers and brilliant shrubs offer a charm that grows the while, and makes other less favored climes dull in comparison. Only those who know the spell of the drowsy tropics can understand the hold they have upon the fancy. No pictured palm can wave and drone its evening anthem like the one that has its roots in the sand and its crest in the wind; no painter's brush can catch the majesty of the mountain peak at the sunset hour; and no juggler of words can impart the zest that rides with the spray of the southern sea. To know it for a day is to know it forever. Its pleasing memory never fades.

FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

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THE SERMON DRAMA
WAS WELL DONE

A sermon drama on the lines of "The Christian" was given by the Elleford Co. last evening when they gave Fitzgerald Murphy's "Beware of Men." The piece made an instantaneous hit and deservedly so. It is one of the best productions of its kind that has ever been given in this city. It is a strong piece and rivets the attention from start to finish. The scenes of American rural life are perfect in their rustic simplicity and naturalness. The end of the first act with its illuminated cross was very effectively worked while the scene in the den where Grace is saved by the minister was also well worked up as the end of the third act in the Jerry McCauley's Mission. The company appear to better advantage than in any of their previous pieces, and the performance was a most enjoyable one, and worthy of the liberal patronage that was extended last evening.

Pietro Sasso has, in the Rev. Oliver Churchill, the best chance he has had for some time and he eagerly avails himself of it with the most gratifying zeal. His performance is remarkable, not only for its quiet pathos and dignity, but also for its fire and determination. He may be congratulated on making a distinct hit. Wm. Marion is good as the gentlemanly blackguard, Lewis Holcomb, one of that class of characters that he seems to delight in. Albert Fent is seen to advantage as Silas Field, the unforgiving father. He gave a natural performance of the character. Chas. Edler is clever as Lem Haskins and George Hernandez humorously sketches Michael Kerrigan. Audra Due is the heroine Grace Field and though the part is not a very exacting one, she treats it in a manner which serves to make it a special enjoyment in the performance. Myrtle Selwyn has a congenial role in Vinnie Stone and contrives to get a lot of comedy out of it. Anna Dodge was admirable as the old maid, Belinda Stebbins. A neat bit of work was that of Frank Howe as Bill Taylor, a crook. As Dicky Bird, Wm. Daul had little to do but did that little conscientiously.

"Beware of Men" will be given again this evening when those who were unable to be present last evening should not fail to witness it. The management announce the well known fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood" for the matinee next Saturday afternoon.

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